

Application No. 10/782,471
Response dated 09 January 2008

Attorney Docket No. MV-6177

Applicants elect, with traverse, to prosecute the invention alleged as Group I, on which independent claims 1, 14 and 21 read, as well as upon which dependent claims 2-7, 15-20 and 22-27 read.

The traversal is based on the grounds that examination of Groups I and II will not constitute an additional burden on the Examiner. Specifically, while the claims of Group I are directed to a fluid transport device, the claims of Group II are directed to a coupling half, including parallel fluid paths, that preferably are utilized in the invention associated with the fluid transport device of Group I.

According to MPEP 803, there are two criteria which both must be met before a proper restriction requirement can be made. First, the alleged inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed. Second, examination of all the alleged inventions (rather than only one) must place a serious burden on the Examiner.

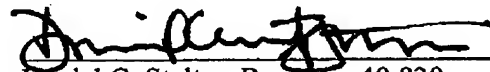
If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner *must* examine it on its merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions. See, MPEP 803. Here, this second criteria has not been met.

Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn and that favorable action on the merits be taken with respect to all of the claims in the instant application. Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the above, or believe that issues remain in the case, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to contact their undersigned counsel, who may be reached by telephone to 847.578.6650.

Respectfully submitted,

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